

Clark Dorothy
Her Packet
Some Thoughts on Women's
Liberation — Then and Now

TS MAY 1 3 1973

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

On the question of legislating sex equality, Justice Holmes once said, "It will take more than the 19th Amendment to convince me there are no differences between men and women."

In England many years ago ladies who wished to go swimming at the seashore used what were called bathing machines, horse-drawn conveyances not unlike caravans, but set lower, on smaller wheels. They had doors at both ends. The lady entered one from the landward side, fully dressed. The owner of the machine then cried "Hup!" to the horse, which was hitched to the seaward end, and the horse advanced into the sea, knowing exactly where to halt with the water a shade more than belly deep. The lady then emerged through the front door, wearing her bathing costume, and slipped into the sea.

In 1910 Terre Haute women, wearers of the hobble skirts and otherwise, were complaining of the high running boards and steep steps on the street cars of the local lines. One of them, who said she did not wear the hobble, voiced her complaint to The Tribune in a statement that was deserving of attention from the big-service corporation that controlled the transit lines. She said:

"If Terre Haute women are not as modest as they should be, it is not their fault. The impossibility of climbing into a street car with a step higher than most men can make gracefully is not conducive to modesty. It is a question of torn dresses, bruised shins and possibly worse injury, or the exhibition of stockings and sometimes garters. The latter alternative may appeal to some as being of no consequence, but it is the least of two evils and no woman can be blamed for accepting it."

The editor agreed that there was no reason why Terre Haute women should not successfully negotiate the step, even though it was high and skirts were bothersome, but if the women did not desire to make spectacles of themselves for the enjoyment of the street loafer they should not be compelled to do so.



The editor stated that there are probably a dozen different styles of cars in operation in Terre Haute. These types have all been tried out for a long enough period to present their advantages and disadvantages. It would seem that in the course of time the traction company would discover which design suited the needs of the city and would work to that end in the purchase of equipment."

"And in selecting cars that are serviceable the people who use them should be given a voice. No one can explain why it is necessary to place running boards three feet from the ground. No one can explain why, when more convenient cars are now in operation, it is necessary for the company to continually operate others that not only inconvenience but actually endanger passengers..."

A woman writer once told how "she had coped, as all who work at home must cope, with a day not given a shape by the necessity of leaving for work at a specified time, and then returning. It was the old question of freedom and time flapping about one." She warned the housewife, stick to it to accomplish anything worthwhile. She warned against wasting time and time wasting one.

This reminded me of the story told of Mrs. Sarah Cox, wife of John Cox, who was left alone with their small children in their cabin in the woods in southern Indiana while her husband traveled to Vincennes for a load of salt.

During his absence Indians in war paint came to the cabin. She fed them cake and other eatables and they left without harming anyone.

On another occasion while her husband was making a journey to Terre Haute on foot to secure some seed corn, she discovered, upon arising one morning, the foot prints of what appeared to be a huge bear plainly visible in the light sprinkling of snow that had fallen the night before.

Fearing the beast would return and attack her children while playing outside the cabin, she armed herself with a butcher knife and tracked the bear to his hiding place in a hollow log in the nearby woods.

Without a gun, she notified the neighbors and the bear was killed. Tradition goes no further, but it is believed she dressed a portion of the meat as food for herself and children, reserving a choice steak for her husband when he returned from his long and tedious journey.

Now there's a woman who knew how to cope! Wonder what she would think of present-day "women's lib"? I'm of two minds about the new movement and try to keep both of them open and unprejudiced. As we get older we can't help feeling the old ways were the best. Gone are the eras of mercy

and knack.

Of swatting and killing a fly with one whack.

Today, in our frenzy for progress, we try

To be scientific in making them die.

We squirt one with juice from a bottle of goo

That costs us well over a dollar or two.

They focus cold eyes on gyrations that he

Must go thru to enter eternity; And then, if we feel he is not going fast.

We give him another good 50 cent blast.

My sensitive soul cries out at the crime

Of wasting his energies, our dough and time;

For I can remember those days in the past

When a good nickel swatter whole seasons would last.

And he, who would try, could kill flies by the lots

With one single, cheap, merciful dead-at-first swat.

Community Affairs File

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Temperance Movement Hit Area Towns 100 Years Ago

15 AUG 5 1973

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

In years gone by, Clinton, Ind., had its temperance problems as did many Hoosier communities. The liquor question became a hard-fought battle between temperance and anti-temperance people, but the saloons remain.

One of the most remarkable movements along this line was the "Woman's Crusade" of 1874-76. In 1874 a band of praying women laid siege to a saloon, day and night, being on duty in shifts, by turns. The proprietor finally surrendered.

In August, 1875, a group of ladies headed by Mrs. Malone and Mrs. Kibby, marched in a double file to the saloon owned by Tice & Melcher to hold a conference with the proprietors. On arrival they found the fort evacuated and the doors wide open. The ladies guarded the place until evening and then retired from the battlefield.

The next night one of the proprietors was arrested, and while he was in custody the citizens gathered at the saloon and demolished everything that contained intoxicating liquors. The proprietor sued fifteen of the citizens for five thousand dollars damages, but the case was compromised and dismissed.

Newport, Ind., had her share of temperance troubles too. She had the usual number of crusades and temperance societies and great temperance revivals over the liquor question. This was a problem back before the Civil War period when whiskey was supposed to be a better grade than later when the government exacted a large revenue.



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There were several attempts to make Newport a "dry" town. First the Order of Good Templars began its work in 1886 with a traveling Methodist minister, Rev. J. E. Wright, as president. Other members of this defunct organization included: Betsy Griffin, Joseph Hopkins, Benjamin Canter, Ivy A. Astor, Sally Canady, John Wigley, Rebecca Huff and Joseph Cheadle.

The next movement was the tidal wave of the "Woman's Crusade" which struck Newport with full force in 1874. Meetings were held in churches, speeches made, and a committee appointed to wait upon the two saloon keepers of the county seat who soon closed their dram shops and signed the pledge not to open again in Newport.

The drug firm of William M. and William L. Triplett, father and son, refused to sign the pledge. They insisted on their right to sell liquor for medicinal, mechanical and sacramental purposes. They were publicly charged with

selling liquor at wholesale for drinking purposes, but they denied the charge. The controversy was long and bitter but they held their ground. Later the father died, and the son moved away from the community.

In December, 1974, a farmer's wife became enraged at her husband's way of spending

his time and money in the saloon. She "made a general scatterment" among the inmates of the saloon when she entered the all-male premises and marched her husband straight home.

In 1877 that great temperance reformer Francis Murphy and his blue-ribbon movement hit Newport like a cyclone. More than 300 men signed the pledge in two night's time. Again in 1879 came the red-ribbon movement of Tyler Mason which proved even more effective.

At one time Newport had a very strong W.C.T.U. (Women's Christian Temperance Union) and edited a department in the local newspaper, "The Hoosier State."

In the history of Mansfield, Ind., the ladies of the village and surrounding county performed one deed which should live in history. Prior to and during the Civil War, Mansfield was "harboring slavery within her midst in the form of intemperance."

Rising up in force, the ladies marched forth and made open war upon the liquor traffic. They rolled barrels of liquor into the streets and slipped the contents. Mrs. Samuel Johnston was one of the ladies in this whiskey insurrection. The ladies were victorious and Mansfield became "dry."

Later, another saloon was started in a building standing on the creek bank. One night some citizens hitched oxen to it and pulled it over into the creek. This wound up liquor selling, even in drug stores, for many years.

During the Twenties and early Thirties another industry — one with a high mortality rate — came into prominence, rum running or bootlegging. This was a gaudy era with supercharged Packards and LaSalle's and Hudsons burning up the rutted secondary roads in showers of sand and gravel.

There were midnight rendezvous outside town on deserted roads to transfer cases of Canadian booze or moonshine rotgut liquor, alcohol in any form. Road houses with the familiar "Joe sent me" message given at the heavily guarded door came into existence.

The mysterious rise in the financial status of certain local families could only be explained by their neighbors as having something to do with bootlegging. That phase of town history came to an abrupt end with the repeal of prohibition.

The old-time saloon never did come back like it was before Prohibition. Saloons where the thirsty could regale themselves with good lager, "forth rod" and "lay'em-straight," in quantity and quality according to demand, were gone.

In certain neighborhoods the local tavern was called "bucket of blood" or some such descriptive name, but there were very few honest-to-goodness saloons ever reopened again.

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Community Affairs File

How Orphan Problem Was Dealt with 140 Years Ago

TS APR 13 1975

By DOROTHY J. CLARK Community Affairs File

The problem of how to care for orphans and abandoned children has always been with us and probably always will. It's interesting to see how the problem was handled some 140 years ago in Vigo County and Terre Haute.

Back in 1833, Sarah Jane McCabe, daughter of Rebecca Allison was bound out to Richard Blake at the tender age of 5 years, 4 months and 7 days. A month later David Linton took Phoebe Richey at the age of 4 years and 11 months.

In the same year, "Henry, a poor negro boy, aged 13 years, "was bound to James Wasson, the tavern keeper, to learn the art and trade of a hostler.

Asbury Newman who was bound to John Britton in 1828, was apprenticed to John R. Werrin in 1834. Evidently he did not take to the surveyor's trade.

Pelliet Hovey, aged 10, was given to Benjamin Baily in 1830 to be taught carpentry.

In 1834 George, "a mulatto aged about 12," was taken by Daniel D. Condit to be a farmer. Two years later another

"poor boy of color, the son of Elijah, a house servant," aged 4 years, was bound to Jacob Early and his wife, Ann Katherine Early, in whose household the mother was employed.



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In 1835, Briant Thomas, age not given, was bound to Joseph Pound for 5 years.

Early in 1836, Rufus Hite

(or Kite) died in Honey Creek township leaving a widow, Elizabeth, and 3 children. The widow, having no means of support to keep her family together, bound them out for their best interests. John, aged 4 years and 5 months, was bound to James Wilson; Fanny M., aged 6 years and 1 month, to Robert and Sarah Hopkins; Elizabeth Ann, aged 12 years and 9 months, to David and Mary Ann Jones.

The beloved Congregational minister took Robert Morgan, aged about 8 years, in 1837.

Rebecca Jane Mitchell, "a female pauper, aged 9 years and 6 months," was bound to David Sheldon in 1838, and her

11-year-old sister, Nancy, went to Gideon Devall.

Evan Morrison took Mary Keath, Ralph Wilson took her sister, and a third sister, Rachel, was apprenticed to John W. Hitchcock. Their ages were not given correctly in the agreement, but each was protected by a clause that provided her freedom if she should marry during the terms of the contract.

Elijah M. Ward took a colored boy named Edward at the age of 16 and agreed to pay him one hundred dollars on his becoming 21.

Four orphan boys and a sister of the Hamilton family were disposed of to James Redford, who took George, nearly 17, and William, nearly 12. Luther Grigsby took John, aged 10; William Hill took Jane, aged 5; and William Goodale took Andrew Jackson, aged 2.

In January, 1840, Moses Cummins, aged 6, went with his brother, Washington, aged 8, to William Simmons. But three months later, Moses was released and did not appear again in the records. Perhaps his mother married again and was able to secure the baby for herself, as was sometimes found to be true.

Other orphan children bound out for many years of service according to county records include John and Merida Edwards, Martin and Harvey Thomas, McCoskey, John Kite, Josiah T. Bosworth, John Nonnehieu, Dulcinea Tongate, Elizabeth Bare, William Tehenor, William Ferguson, Martha Rogers, Albert Patrick (apprenticed by his father, Ebenezer, to John Dowling to become a printer), Maria L. Shelly, Almiry Wilson, Catherine Booth, Alanson Mitchell and James Standup.

Also, Raymond Russell, Asa Mitchell, Phillip Maines, Sarah and Mary Haskell, William and Thomas Wilson, Mary Jane Davis, John Hayworth, Edward and Cornelius Quinn, Jacob, George, Benjamin, Mary, Noah, Michael and Hannah Coffman, Calvander Hill, Daniel M. and John Grider (apprenticed by their father at 10 and 14 years of age), Angeline Wilson (by her father), James Carlisle

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(by his mother), Harriett Allen, Elizabeth, Belina, Mary Jane and Calvin Church Hawkins, Daniel and Franklin Shaw, Lucy Ann Owens, Franklin Washington Hattan, Henry and Joseph Baldwin and John Desart.

In addition, Nancy Jane Galliland (by her mother), Elizabeth, William C. Weatherwax, Alvira and Martha Singleton (left with their stepfather on the death of their mother, his wife), Pamela Taylor, Joseph Stoly, Angeline Popham, Dennis Sullivan and John Lane (whose articles of apprenticeship were assigned to another nearly 8 years later when the boy was nearly 19).

Some of the masters of these servants were such men and women as James Stills, Daniel Shirley, James Ray, David W. Wilson, John W. McCiskey, George A. Chapman, Peter Dufficey, Britain M. Harrison, Joseph and Nancy Kester, Edward V. Ball, Isaac Bolton, John M. Cain, Ralph Conover, Moses C. Carr, H. Westfall, John Clem, Jackson Longdon, Thomas Hayworth, Orson Morgan, Frederick Beecher, Samuel C. Rowley, Johathan Rogers, Pleasant Durham, Warren Chadwick, John H. Wooding, James Palmer, Lewis Alvey, Cyrus James, Benjamin Fisher and Edward Long.

Also, Peter Wood, Linus A. Barnett, Matthew W. Sedan, Francis Thralls, James M. Brown, Thomas McCawley, William Gillcrease, Callom H. Bailey, William and Michael Goodman, George Haselrode, Leonard York, William Miller, William Baldwin, Jacob Lyon, Thomas Desart, Stephen G. Burnett, J. L. Powers, Hezekiah, Benjamin and Kinchin Roberts ("free men of color"), Zachariah Gapen (who made coffins for the community), Daniel Guinther, John Wood, Isaac and Cynthis Dean, Robert and Rachel Hoggatt, Zenas Smith, John Shuey, Franklin Sage, Jacob Morton, John F. Cruft, Samuel Early, Josiah Hicklin, Jane Early, David K. Smith and Grafton Cookerly.

Agreements like the above were on record as late as 1877, but only adults or grown boys were articulated.

Community Affairs File

Liquor question big in the early 1900s

History (T.H.)

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The liquor question was very big in 1910, and the merits of "wet" or "dry" towns were uppermost in people's minds.

The general belief was that as long as farmers raise wheat, corn and barley, whisky will be made and sold.

The government licenses the making and therefore it is folly for any state or locality to attempt to prevent the sale.

Reports from the larger towns in the counties that had gone "dry" in 1910 showed a falling off in various kinds of business. People who enjoyed an occasional "snifter" of a glass of beer would combine pleasure with business and go to the nearest "wet" town to shop.

Paris, Brazil, Clinton and Sullivan were all "dry" towns and Terre Haute business profited from this fact. Most every Saturday and every mine pay day, the interurban cars were crowded with men and their wives who came shopping.

Each bought a supply of staples to run "til next payday" and the greater part of the wages of the workmen from the surrounding "dry" towns was spent in Terre Haute.

When the shoppers boarded the car to return home, the man of the house was usually carrying a suspicious looking package which assured that if his hometown was "dry," he wouldn't be.

For example, take Clinton, 16 miles north of Terre Haute, where 44 saloons were put out of business. The merchants complained that the miners all came to Terre Haute to do their trading and the temperance people were forced to admit that nothing was gained from their alleged victory.

"Social Clubs" abounded in the mining town and were reinforced by jugs and bottles carried up from Terre Haute. Conditions were worse than when the half-hundred saloons were running full blast, but under surveillance of the police and paying revenue into the town.

Some of the saloons in Terre Haute in 1910 were Mitchell & Woods, northwest corner 4th and Ohio; James Morrell, 1009 Wabash; J.F. Curran, 131 N. 3rd; Paris Buffet, 30 S. 3rd; E.E. Callendar, 1026 Wabash; Joseph Rauch, 1229 Main;

Harry Johnson, 1215 Main; William Baxter's Bar, 405 Wabash; and Edward Haise, 831 Oak St.

Also, Keith's Cafe & Bar, 220 Wabash; Fritz Meyer Bar, 16 S. 4th; Smith & Doyle, 719 Wabash, famous for a "merchant's lunch, best in city, for 15 cents"; A.B. Leasure, 677 Wabash; Washington Saloon, 8th and Wabash, run by Steumpfle & Welte; and James F. O'Donnell, northeast corner 13th and Maple.

And, John Jakles' Place, 416 Ohio; C.E. McCurdy's Pabst Cafe, 659 Wabash; C.L. Carter, 134 Wabash; The Avalon, 725 Wabash; and John L. Walsh, 24 S. 3rd St.

Eddie Gosnell's hotel, bar, poolroom and summer garden was located at the corner of 13th, Maple and Lafayette Avenue.

The Unsold Bar and Restaurant, 1242 Wabash, was run by George Unsold; the Model Saloon, 19 S. 4th; High Life Buffet, by Charles F. Stevens; Fritz Schatz saloon, 1012 Wabash; Patterson and Birch Bar; John C. Arnold Saloon, northwest corner 14th and Poplar; O'Donnell & O'Mara Buffet, 318 Wabash; Mecca Bar, 16 S. 5th, run by S.J. Linton; Shea Bros., 314 Wabash; John Kickler's Bar, 116 S. 4th St.; Clay's Buckeye Saloon, 1152 Lafayette Ave.; and John Sohn, 1430 N. 9th St.

All of the preceding saloon establishments advertised in the Labor Day edition of the Terre Haute Clarion, a weekly labor newspaper established in May, 1910. The editor was Albert I. Meyers.

The Temperance Crusade really began in the 1830s when hard drinking was usual among all classes and occupations.

Whiskey was considered a necessity for those engaged in physical labor. Drunkenness was common.

The churches began a crusade against drinking and by the 1830s temperance movement was well under way. It was strongest in New England and in states where many New Englanders had settled. Ohio was first to restrict liquor sales (1830); Maine was the first to prohibit its sale entirely (1846).

Within a dozen years, 13 states followed Maine's example by passing laws which

(over)

strictly regulated or prohibited the sale of liquor.

One argument against strong drink was the injury it did to the human body. Another argument was that it reduced the workman's efficiency, but the most common argument was the religious one that drinking led to sin.

Apparently many people have preferred the primrose path in the past century and a half.

The problem is still with us, but much of the damage and loss of life occurs on the highways to non-drinkers as well as the imbibers.

Begun during the Jackson era, Prohibition gathered strength after the Civil War and by 1900 several states, all of them rural, were "dry" and many other states had "local option."

By 1917 nearly all rural areas and small towns were dry. During World War I, Congress stopped the manufacture of alcoholic beverages to conserve grains. It also sent the states an amendment to the Constitution prohibiting the manufacture, sale or transportation of intoxicating beverages. The 18th Amendment was promptly ratified in 1919.

Terre Haute and surrounding areas were to begin a new era of bootlegging, "blind pigs" and roadhouses with the familiar password "Joe sent me" ...but that's another story...

'Underground railroad' route through Indiana

Local attorney led court fight in early escapes from slavery

THU JAN 14 1979

One of the interesting topics of the early Hoosier history is that of an organization known as the "underground railroad." This was a secret system by which slaves, endeavoring to escape from their masters in the slave states, were afforded protection and transportation on their way to Canada.

There was a line of stations, extending from several points on the Ohio river, and the escaping slave was transported from one station to another, under the protection of friends enlisted in the cause.

Those who engaged in this business incurred great risks, and many nar-

row brushes with death, in their desire to assist and protect the escaping bondman. Not only from the slaveholders in pursuit, did the "station masters," and those assisting the runaways, have cause to fear; but there were men in all the border counties ready and willing to aid the cause of the slaveholder in the apprehension of his "property," for the liberal reward that was offered.

These men acted as spies and were of great service in giving information to the slaveowner, and were ever ready to assist in the apprehension of the runaway.

The fugitive-slave law, enacted by

Congress in 1850, gave the slave owners, or those hunting their runaway slaves, the power to organize a posse in any place in the United States to aid them in the reclamation of their slaves.

Under this law, a great impetus was given to the hunting of fugitive slaves in all the free states bordering on the slave states, and in no section was there greater activity in this line of industry than in the counties of southwestern Indiana.

This law was taken advantage of by many men who never owned a slave, or who had never lived in a slave state. The kidnapping of free Negroes was a common occurrence in those days. It was no trouble for a man, well advanced in moral degeneracy and inclined to take another step in that direction, to seize upon a free Negro, take him before a compliant justice of the peace, present a description of the alleged runaway (a description that had been previously obtained by a co-conspirator) and the rights of the alleged slave owner were fully established. By a decision of the highest court, a Negro had no rights that a white man was bound to respect.

Great risks

Those who were engaged in the operation of this "underground railroad" system not only incurred great risks in the personal danger to life and property, but also subjected

themselves to the severe penalty prescribed by the fugitive-slave act.

That law imposed a fine of \$1,000 and imprisonment on anyone harboring, or in any way aiding fugitives in escaping. As the courts were constituted in that period, a very small incident was easily construed as "aiding and harboring" fugitives.

In many Indiana counties, the greater portion of the early settlers came from slave states. Some had come here in order to get away from slavery and its blighting influence, and they had strong convictions as to the evils of that institution.

Others brought with them the views of the community from which they came. The prevalent opinion was that slavery was right, and that the slave owner's right to his slave was as legitimate as was his right to any other of his chattels.

Slavery had existed in all the settled sectors of the Northwest Territory for several years after the Indiana Territory was organized, and at the time of the passage of the fugitive slave law, in 1850, there was little open opposition to slavery.

But when the obnoxious fugitive slave law came in force, so many brutal and unjust acts were committed by conscienceless kidnappers, that a great change in sentiment resulted. There was a rapid growth of anti-slavery sentiment, and the activities of the "underground rail-

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road" system were enlarged.

Slaves Freed

Eli Hawkins came from South Carolina in 1806 and was the first to bring slaves to what is now Daviess County, Ind. He had two slaves, Jake and Ann, and acquired another slave, Isaac, from a neighbor.

After Hawkins' death, his widow married a Mr. Merrill, who had some difficulty with Isaac and Jake, a part of his matrimonial inheritance.

Jake and Isaac proceeded to "start something" that was probably in the nature of a surprise. They instituted proceedings to determine the legality of their being held as slaves in a free territory.

They had for their attorney Amory C. Kinney, one of the first lawyers in Daviess County, but well known in Indiana courts as well as the state legislature and the case was tried before the associate judges of the county.

The decision of the court was that the slaves, by law, were free, and from this decision there was no appeal. No other action of this kind was taken by any of the other slaves, and there was no need of such action. By this decision, slavery in Daviess County was automatically abolished.

The freed slaves remained in the county and some of them acquired property and established homes of their own. The success of Lawyer Kinney in obtaining freedom for these two black men aroused a con-

siderable amount of prejudice against that race, among a number of white people.

Numerous threats and suggestions of violence were made against the Negroes and the lawyer who had been instrumental in securing their freedom; but none of these threats was ever carried out, and the bitter feeling and vindictive abuse gradually died away.

Judge Amory Kinney was a native of Bethel, Washington County, Vermont. Born in 1791, he emigrated at the age of 19 years to western New York to work in a cotton factory at Courtlandville. After the factory burned, he was unemployed and was elected constable which gave him leisure time to study law.

In 1819, he was admitted to the bar in U.S. Court, came west and settled in Vincennes. In 1827, he moved to Terre Haute and opened a law office, took over the Western Register newspaper in 1830, and in 1853 was elected a probate court judge and served until 1857. His law practice took him to all the counties along the Wabash river from Ohio to Terre Haute.

He was elected to the Indiana Legislature in 1830, and appointed president judge by Governor Noble in 1831. He was elected to a seven-year term the following year. A candidate for Congress in 1833, he was again elected to the Legislature in 1848. At the end of his term a judge of the common pleas court, his health failed, and on a visit to his birthplace he died. For many years he was the head of the law firm of Kinney, Wright & Gookins.

Slaves were still owned in Indiana

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Although the ordinance of 1787 by which Virginia ceded to the federal government the Northwest Territory prohibited slavery in the states to be created out of it, there was for many years something very much akin to slavery in Indiana territory. Slaves were still owned here after the establishment of the new state in 1816.

Southern slave owners came here and brought their slaves with them. Because of a law suit in Vincennes, the court ruling won the freedom of one such individual and from then on the practice of using so-called indentured servants grew up in the state.

Many former slaves had won their freedom by purchase or by emancipation by their masters, either before or after coming to Indiana. Many others had escaped from their masters and held their freedom by the consent of their neighbors, in some instances their freedom by forcible action of their friends here.

Probably the first negro to come into Vigo County of whom we have any record was one who came with Harrison on his way to Tippecanoe and who, in a way, caused the heavy damage done by the Indians there.

Harrison reported that this black man had passed the lines the night before the attack and had unwittingly given the Indians information that Harrison had no cannon with him, information vital to the Indians who feared artillery in battle more than small arms.

Harrison had the man staked out for torture and death but relented, so he says, and failed to inflict serious punishment upon him.

Early Negro Census

The earliest census returns of Terre Haute, included in those of Vigo County for 1820, show 11 colored persons or free negroes in the town and classed all of these as servants in the homes of residents.

In no other way was the free negro recognized as a human being. Under the law he could not be a witness in a case in court where a white man was concerned. Marriage between the races was prohibited. A free negro who entered the state was required to give a bond, and the 1851 constitution deprived him of the right to vote or serve in the militia.

Many of our earliest settlers were Quakers from the Carolinas who, before leaving, had freed their slaves, only to have them decline to remain there. They chose to follow their former masters to the land of freedom on any terms whatever.

The census of 1830 shows nearly 100 free negroes in Vigo County. Many of them were land owners in

the rural areas, but more of them were in town where there was more chance of a living from odd jobs with the whites or service with the wealthy.

Listed in this census were Jethro Bass with 14 members of his family; Joseph Patterson with 10; Benjamin Bushnell and Joseph Artis with three; Bryant Thomas, nine; Merritt Smith, four; Mark Florence, three; Dotson Bass, four; Price Cozzens, three; Andrew Lewis, two; Adam Riley, four; Matthew Steward, eight; Thomas Wilson, eight; Isaac Beatty, five; Charles Baity, seven, and Selah Baity, four.

It is very possible that other negroes were not included in the 1820 census. In those perilous times, not too much information would have been given to the strange white man who said he was a census taker.

Emancipation Papers

Many former slaves recorded their papers of emancipation as a protection against being seized and resold, a common danger in the early days

when organized bands roamed the country, particularly near the Ohio River border. A negro was more valuable than a horse, therefore the incentive was greater.

The earliest record here of these papers reads: "Jesse Chisley, a man of colour and late an indentured servant to the later Peter Jones of Vincennes, has served the full term of his indentureship, it having expired the ninth day of March last, and his is therefore at liberty to dispose of himself or his services at his own will and pleasure. (signed) A. Whitlock, July 9, 1822, Terre Haute."

An earlier one from a slave state was recorded in 1838, nearly 12 years after its granting, in these words: "Samuel Malone, aged about 26 years, five feet four inches high, dark brown complexion, a scar on his forehead, emancipated by a decree of Prince George county, against Littleberry Tucker, by occupation a planter, is duly registered in a book in my office kept for that purpose, as a free person of color, number 919. (signed) J. T. Crump, clerk

Dinwiddie county, Va., Jan. 16, 1827."

In addition to the Lost Creek and Nevins township settlements of negroes, many early families settled in the southern part of the county. Their Underwood cemetery is located east of the First Street Road about 2½ miles north of the Sullivan county line.

The people of these two groups intermarried to some extent and lived out their lives as farmers with few exceptions. It was not until the influx of southern negroes to work in the blast furnaces and iron works here that there was any segregated district such as the section known as "Baghdad" in the southeast section of the city.

The people of the rural communities boasted that what mixed blood came into their families was red, not white, due to the frequent intermarriage with the Indians in the south and southeastern part of the country. Even as late as 1870, then census showed three full-blooded Indians living in Vigo county.

Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark



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after 1816

Good old days weren't so good

T s MAY 20 1984

From a woman's point of view, just how good were those good old days in the Wabash Valley? We can go back two centuries and remember how the Indian women lived in the Wabash Valley in 1784.

Fish from the river and creeks, mussels from the river, game of all sorts from the forests, beans, corn, squash and pumpkins from the soil, along with fruits and nuts gathered from trees and bushes furnished food for the Indian women to prepare. Wild honey and maple sugar helped sweeten the food, wild herbs and precious salt helped season it.

Cooked over an open fire on a spit or in a crude clay or iron pot, the slow crockpot method was used even then. The more primitive Indians threw hot stones from the fire into the pot to make it boil faster. A turkey or prairie chicken with just the biggest feathers removed would be tossed in the pot. Those who were ravenously hungry would grab half-raw chunks of meat out of the pot and gobble it down. These Indians ate grasshoppers, slugs found under stones, and other insects in season. Filling their bellies at least once a day was their life's ambition.

Then we can go back 173 years ago when Fort Harrison was built in 1811. The women who lived at Fort Harrison cooked in their fireplaces using many of the ingredients enjoyed by the Indians. Corn, meat and fish were staples in their diets. One woman was shelling corn to make hominy one day when she forgot her husband's warning about keeping the door barred. It was a warm autumn day so she opened the door to sit in the sunshine while she worked.

A marauding Indian saw his chance, crept up behind her and partially scalped her before being

Historically speaking



Clark is Vigo County's official historian and formerly worked for The Terre Haute Tribune.

By Dorothy Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

chased off by a neighbor. This hardy pioneer woman calmly tied up her bleeding head in her apron and continued her task of preparing food for her family. She had her priorities straight even if her hair was on a little sideways.

And then 168 years ago, when Terre Haute was platted in 1816, pioneer life continued in the little village. But soon there were a few refinements. One by one shops and stores were set up, a market house was opened. Each morning women would walk to the market carrying baskets to bring home freshly butchered meat, and produce from outlying farms. Staples like flour, cornmeal, etc., were still purchased in large quantities direct from the grist mill or the store. Every household baked its own bread, cakes, pies and cookies until bakeries were established in the growing town.

Through the early years of the growing town and city, we can learn how one family lived 100 years ago when Rose Polytechnic Institute of Technology (now Rose-Hulman) opened its doors at 13th and Locust Streets.

Professor Clarence A. Waldo came from the east coast to teach math and be the first librarian at the new school. He and his family, his wife, small daughter Alice, and his mother-in-law, a semi-invalid, lived at 1003 S. Seventh St., then moved to 314 N. Seventh Street where the Indiana State University Women's Gym is now.

We have his grocery account books from 1884 to 1894, his utility bills and other household expense accounts, so we know something about how the family lived, what they ate, and their Yankee habits here in River City.

The Waldos used gas from two companies for lighting their house. They bought ice from the iceman, had guttering and roofing repairs, bought medicines, and had the coal-burning base burner moved from one room to another.

Most of their groceries were purchased from P. J. Kaufman's store, 683 Wabash Ave. In all the months with an "R" they enjoyed oyster stew and crackers. Chipped beef was only 15 cents. Eggs ranged from 23 to 50 cents a dozen. Creamery butter was 40 cents a pound. Bread was only five cents a loaf.

Two frequent purchases were coffee and oat flakes, and 25 pounds of flour for 85 cents. Not so often they bought a three to four pound chicken or a potted ham. The Waldos ate much canned fruit, peaches and pears. They preferred canned tomatoes, peas and corn, but ate fresh asparagus and spinach.

Fresh fruit was also purchased regularly — grapes at 50 cents a basket, gem melons or osage melon for 10 cents, six bananas for 15 cents, three lemons for a dime, oranges at

40 cents a dozen, and figs for 10 cents in season. They ate strawberries, raspberries and blackberries.

At holiday times they bought dates, a box of savory, English walnuts, celery, lard, raisins and a half-gallon of molasses costing 40 cents. One time they bought a 10 pound turkey. Marshmallows at 13 cents for a quarter-pound and coconut were regular purchases.

In addition to food items, the Waldos also bought household necessities — a bucket for a quarter, scrub brush another quarter, matches to light the stove, a 15 cent mousetrap, Ivory soap (three bars for a quarter) and Sapoline at 25 cents.

Little Alice was indulged with a quarter's worth of animal crackers, a dime's worth of "nicknack" and an occasional bar of chocolate. The family enjoyed sardines at 40 cents and chestnuts for a dime. In January, head lettuce cost only 15 cents for three heads, and a bottle of salad dressing cost a quarter. If some of you thought salad dressing in a bottle was a fairly recent innovation in grocery shopping, you were mistaken.

Staples purchased in large quantities as they were then would certainly pose a storage problem in modern compact kitchens. Where would people store potatoes by the bushel, flour by the barrel at \$8.50, and 50 pounds of sugar for \$3.75? To show that nothing really changes, radishes and "sody" were sometimes on the same bill. Burp!

So — think back to the Indian women, the early pioneers and the Waldo family, and decide if the living is easier and better in 1984 than it was then in the so-called good, old days.

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Historically speaking

Long hours and little pay . . .

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Previous to 1912, girls employed at Ehrmann's overall factory toiled daily over sewing machines, some from seven in the morning until six o'clock in the evening. At this time, the general average for girl's wages had been from five to six dollars a week.

During the year of 1912, the firm began to make certain changes in the prices of making that work. There were many arguments but to no avail.

Two weeks before the year of 1913 began, girls were given a vacation. The reason for this time off was supposed to be for invoicing by the firm.

On returning to work, the girls found that the entire system of making overalls had been changed. Many girls were forced out of their department and compelled to take up a new line of work. The changes also caused increased and heavier labor on the part of others for less pay. By this change an average cut of 50 cents per day was made in the girls' wages. The cuts were four cents less a dozen pairs of overalls.

According to one of the women employed at Ehrmann's at that time, Elsie Raroden, "We were told to try the work for two weeks. But most of the girls were already two weeks in debt and could not afford to work for decreased wages . . . some were making their own way and some

were supporting little children. Most of them were wholly dependent on the firm for a livelihood."

By trying the work for two and a half days and seeing it was not enough to make a living, the girls banded together and went to the forelady. After an argument, they were told "if they didn't like it they could quit."

At quitting time the girls were told to return the next morning at nine o'clock for the firm's decision. The next day they were met by the forelady and told that "work and price would remain the same and that she had decided to take us all back with the exception of three."

These she charged with alleged leadership in the uprising. The women objected to this injustice and refused to go back to work for the prices which had caused the strike.

Believing they were "human flesh being used as machinery," the women formed a union and refused to return to work. On Feb. 21, 1913, there were 94 charter members in the Garment Workers Union here. Elsie Raroden was chosen president of the local union, and Ella Miller was the secretary.

Listed as one of the most important garment industries in Terre Haute in 1901, the Ehrmann Manufacturing Company was composed of Albert D. Ehrmann, Emil E. Ehrmann and F.A. Reckert. They opened their first factory in 1885 on

Main Street near First Street. Seven years later their business had grown and the building on Wabash Avenue near Tenth Street was erected. (This presently houses Glidden Furniture Store.)

At the start the factory had a capacity of 50 machines, and mostly workingmen's clothing was made. The output of the factory found a ready market, and by 1901 there were 550 machines with a weekly output of 8,000 garments, a decided increase over the first factory with its 60 employees.

The Ehrmann Company made overalls, trousers, shirts, blouses, duck coats and other garments. They soon outgrew the threestory new building and, in 1899 built a branch factory in Danville, Ill. The branch made nothing but trousers of all kinds, and 150 people were employed there in 1901.

Selling direct from the factory, there were 10 salesmen on the road covering a territory of 15 states. Stock was kept in the basement and on the ground floor, and men were kept busy from morning to night packing and shipping finished garments while others were constantly unloading railroad cars of materials.

A news release of 1901 states that "the two large factories of the company now employ 750 people. The business has grown so steadily that many in the city have not

realized the extent of such a concern. The pay roll for the week amounts to many thousands of dollars, as all the employees in the factories are experts and are obtainable only at a high price."

Labor problems were not a problem in 1901, but they certainly were in 1913. At that time the Ehrmann family had branched out in other endeavors. Charles H. Ehrmann was president of the wholesale and retail meat business, 100-104 S. Fourth St. Albert D. Ehrmann, who lived at 825 S. Fifth St., and Emil D. Ehrmann, who lived in the old house torn down for the present Elks Club was built on the site of Fort Harrison, were still operating the strike-torn Ehrmann Manufacturing Co., 929 Wabash.

The Ehrmann Block was located at 601-605 Wabash Ave. The Ehrmann Coal Company, 411 Ohio St., was operated by Charles, the butcher, as president, and John N. Balch, secretary. Max Ehrmann, the poet and philosopher, lived in bachelor quarters at 128½ S. Sixth St., helping out with legal problems if his family needed him and he needed the cash. His writings were not successful financially, and he left the money-making up to his more energetic and practical family.

If anyone has knowledge of this early labor strike and its outcome, please contact this writer.

BETWEEN THE LINES

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORIES YOU READ ABOUT CELEBRITIES

By Josie



Ana Alicia

Q. Can you tell me something about Ana Alicia, the girl who plays "Melissa" on "Falcon Crest." She's a refreshingly new face and very charming. Carol Sorgen, Annapolis, Md.

A. Ana was born in Mexico City, raised in El Paso, and seems to have been the model adolescent — gaining the "Miss 16 of El Paso" title, the Outstanding Student honors of Coronado High School and the Daughters of the American Revolution Award for Patriotism.

"She is really a voraciously bright girl," says a friend. And so it

follows that she won a full scholarship to Wellesley College and six scholarships to law school. She chose Southwest University in L.A. but dropped her law studies and drifted into acting, picking up her first steady work, a role on the soap "Ryan's Hope," just four months after changing her goals.

She stayed on that show for 15 months, and won the role of "Melissa," according to the friend, very easily. "The producers looked at her and said something like 'Well, that's it,'" he says. "And the plans are to expand her role; she's already been featured more prominently than before."

Whether she features more prominently in the life of co-star Lorenzo Lamas is another matter. "Look, Lorenzo's marriage broke up and some tabloid printed that she and Lorenzo were a very hot item.

"I don't know where they got it, but everyone else picked it up and suddenly there was a big on-the-set romance. It's not true. She really likes him as a friend but that's as far as it goes. She prefers to date men outside the business."

Of course, situations like that have been known to change, especially since "Ana is a really infectious type of person, so exuberant, so passionate about everything. You really can't help but be taken with her."



Annette O'Toole

Q. I am an avid fan of Annette O'Toole. Can you tell me something about her? Dave Wilson, Bridgeview, Ill.

A. She's 32, started out to become a dancer. O'Toole began taking lessons at 3 at her mother's dance studio in Houston and became a professional dancer at 16. She gave it up not long after. "I was working so hard and standing behind people who weren't talented at all. Dancers

hardly ever get recognized," she explained.

She switched to acting lessons and got a few roles in TV shows such as "Gunsmoke," "The Rookies," and "The Mod Squad" playing, as she describes it, "hysterical ingenues." She also appeared in an attention-getting role as a nymphomaniac in the premier episode of the past series "Whatever Happened to the Class of '65."

O'Toole does a great roach, however. "When I auditioned for the role of the beauty pageant contestant in the film 'Smile,' I had to fill out a typical Junior Miss Pageant questionnaire, part of which was listing special talents," she says. "So I said that I did impressions, including one of a dead cockroach."

When her turn came to try out, that's what she did — she took off her shoes, lay on her back, curled up and stuck out her tongue. She got the part. "They figured if I'd do that, I'd do anything to win," she says. "And that's what that character was all about."

Now, after a brief outing in the film "48 Hours" as Nick Nolte's girlfriend, she has an even showier girlfriend role coming up — that of Lana Lang, Superman's post-Lois girlfriend, in this summer's "Superman III."

IF ONLY DEBBIE WOULD LEARN TO SPEAK UP...

Debbie Allen, a woman not known for shyness, cornered "Magnum P.I." himself, Tom Selleck, recently and really let him have it for beating her show, "Fame" so consistently in the ratings.

"I sweat, I hustle, I work my rear end off every week on the show," said Debbie, "and you — You! All you do is walk out of the ocean in a wet bathing suit and the whole country switches channels to watch it!"

Selleck, ever the gentleman, conceded that he, in fact, watched Debbie sweat, or whatever; he likes "Fame," he watches it a lot. Conveniently, in Hawaii, where he



Actress Cathy Moriarty's husband and manager Carmine Dana called to inform Between the Lines that we had incorrectly listed his former profession as a security guard. Carmine says he never was a security guard. We apologize.

Q. I am one of Kenny Loggins' greatest fans. He's a tremendous talent and seems to be a nice person. Do real-life happenings influence his songwriting? Also, now that he's a father, how has his life changed? Mary Beth Sweeney, Las Vegas, Nev.

A. According to an associate of Kenny's, "He's always been a very sensitive man and a sensitive songwriter — events in his life have always come up in his songs. His new single, in fact, which is called 'Welcome to Heartlight,' is really about the California school called 'Heartlight.' He visited it, was impressed by it, and when he found out that the school didn't have a school song, he wrote one for it."

As for the kids, having two young sons has made him "more aware of the environment, more respectful of it because the kids are going to be growing up in it," according to the aide. "And of course, just having children makes you more responsible and careful overall. That has happened to Kenny as well."

Granger Twist and lighted up

Grandmother and her

Community Affairs File

Clark, Dorothy

JAN 5, 1986 TS

Daintily, she pulled out her pipe

Back when my maternal grandmother was a girl in southern Indiana, it was quite a common thing to see women smoke — not cigarettes or cigars, nor a big Meerschaum or anything as unladylike as that, but a dainty little clay pipe with a tiny bowl and a long thin stem.

This was also in the days when women wore several petticoats. In one of the outer petticoats, outing flannel in cold weather, was sewn a large square pocket, and this was Grandmother's secret hiding place for her little pipe and her supply of Granger Twist.

When the urge for a smoke arose, up came her petticoat and out came the makings. Daintily she would stoke her little pipe, light it with a big kitchen match or a paper spill from a supply kept on the fireplace mantel or near the kitchen stove, and sit down to "take five."

As she'd sit in her rocker and

Historically speaking



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smoke her pipe she seemed to enjoy herself so much, and it was then that I could persuade her to tell me the stories of when she was young. Hearing her stories she told so well gave me my first interest in history and particularly in family genealogy.

Some of her tall tales have since

been disproved as more fiction than fact, based on tradition alone, but most of what she told me all those many years ago I've since been able to prove. Her memory for dates of family events was positively uncanny.

Born in 1864, Charlotte "Tiny" Followell was the daughter of George Washington Followell and his wife, Huldah Margaret Johnson. Her first husband, Lafayette Powell, was my grandfather. He died leaving her with one child, my mother. She married again and had several more children, raising most of them along with several of her grandchildren. Hers was a busy life and a full one. Twice widowed, she managed to cope with her problems on a day-to-day basis. It's no wonder she needed the solace of her pipe.

One of Grandmother's favorite stories was about the herb doctor.

It seems that she was a frail child, prone to every childhood disease there was, and in those days there were many. Doctors were few and far between, so the traveling "yarb" doctor's visit was very welcome.

This particular time she spoke of was when her life was almost despaired of by the family. She'd been "poorly" all winter, and now it was early spring and she was "pale, peaked and puny," one of her favorite expressions. The old herb doctor diagnosed her symptoms and mixed up a dandy remedy. It tasted strongly of bitters, and because it was nasty tasting, it was regarded as good medicine.

Whether it was the medicine or not, Grandmother's recovery was rapid and complete. The family regarded it as nothing short of a miracle. When she was a very old lady, she often wished she had a bottle of that wonderful elixir. She was sure that it could have cured all her aches, pains and ailments.

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I don't know for sure which one of the early Followells in Sullivan or Greene counties was Grandmother's grandfather. If anyone does, please contact this writer. However, I do know she came of sturdy stock on the Johnson line. Her grandfather was Wyatt Jackson Johnson and her grandmother, Seena Pitt (or Pitts). More research is being done on this line in Kentucky, but any information would help. Wyatt and Seena settled where Shakamak Park is now.

Grandmother's pipe was *not* a social asset in her daughter's eyes. Of course, all the kinfolk were aware of it, but when strangers were to be entertained, there was usually a family "conflab" to decide whether Grandmother and pipe were to be relegated to a back bedroom or whether they would brazen out the situation.

It certainly didn't make any difference to Grandmother. Her

theory was that if people were shocked by her pipe smoking, they must be easily upset, and therefore weren't worth her time anyhow.

On date nights, older sisters were in torment that their beaux would arrive to see Grandmother puffing away. Mother in her tactful way usually took steps to insure that they did not see such a sight. This much younger sister was given the duty of entertaining Grandmother or of being entertained. We enjoyed each other's company.

Being of a more tolerant disposition, this writer can remember boasting to other children that "my Grandmother smokes a pipe!" Looking back on childhood, one of my most cherished memories is Grandmother and her pipe. Mother always said that was the reason Grandmother lived to such a ripe old age. No germ would dare come near her while she was smoking that pipe. Bless her!

Inside the Underground

TH attorney helped secure pair

Railroad of slaves' freedom

Vigo County Public Library

County historians receive many strange requests for information on all phases of state and local history. One of the most unusual came from a man whose hobby was railroad-ing. He had heard about the station at Markle's Mill and wanted to know where he could see one of the engines used on the old Underground Railroad. This incident prompted today's column on that subject.

The Underground Railroad was a secret system of protection and transportation to Canada offered to black slaves trying to escape their white masters in the southern states.

A line of stations extended north from several points along the Ohio River, transported the escaping slaves from one station to another, under the protection of Friends enlisted in the cause. Many Quakers became actively involved in this work, but so did many other Hoosiers of other religions who believed in freedom.

Those who engaged in this business incurred great risks and many narrow brushes with death in their desire to assist and protect the escaping slaves. The "station masters" and others assisting the runaways feared the slaveholders in hot pursuit and the men in all of the border counties who were

Historically speaking



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after the liberal rewards offered for apprehension of valuable "properties."

These men acted as spies and were instrumental in giving information to the slave owners and assisting in apprehending the runaways. The fugitive slave law, enacted by Congress in 1850, gave the slave owners, or those hunting their runaway slaves, the power to organize a posse any place in the United States to aid in the reclamation of their slaves.

Under this law, a great impetus was given to the hunting of fugitive slaves in all the free states bordering on the slave states. In no section was there greater activity

in this line of industry than in the counties of Southern Indiana.

Men who never owned a slave, nor ever lived in a slave state took advantage of this law to make money and enjoy the excitement of hunting down the fleeing blacks. The kidnapping of free Negroes was a common occurrence in those days.

It was no trouble for a man of low character and few morals to seize a free Negro, take him before a compliant Justice of the Peace, present a description of the alleged runaway and the rights of the alleged slave owner were fully established. By a decision of the highest court, a Negro had no rights that a white man was bound to respect.

Those who were engaged in the operation of the Underground Railroad system not only incurred great risks of personal danger to life and property, but also subjected themselves to the severe penalty prescribed by the fugitive slave act.

That law imposed a fine of \$1,000 and imprisonment on anyone harboring, or in any way aiding, fugitives in escaping. As the courts were set up in that period, a very small incident was easily construed as "aiding and harboring" fugitives.

The greater portion of the early settlers in many Indiana counties

came from slave states. Some had come here in order to get away from slavery and its blighting influence. They had strong convictions as to the evils of that institution.

Others brought with them the views of the southern communities from which they came. The prevalent opinion was that slavery was right and that the slave owner's right to his slaves was as legitimate as was his right to any other of his chattels.

Slavery had existed in all the settled sections of the Northwest Territory for several years after the Indiana Territory was organized. At the time of the passage of the fugitive slave law in 1850, there was little open opposition to slavery.

But when the obnoxious slave law came in force, so many brutal and unjust acts were committed by conscienceless kidnappers that a great change in sentiment resulted. The rapid growth of anti-slavery feeling enlarged the activities of the Underground Railroad system.

Pioneer Terre Haute attorney, Amory C. Kinney, was involved in one of the earliest slave cases in Indiana. He was one of the first

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attorneys in Daviess County, Ind., and well known in Indiana courts as well as the state legislature when he became involved in this famous case.

Eli Hawkins came from South Carolina in 1806 and was the first to bring slaves to what is now Daviess County. He had two slaves, Jake and Ann, and acquired another slave, Isaac, from a neighbor. After Hawkins died, his widow married a Mr. Merrill who had some difficulties with the two black men.

In a surprise move, Jake and Isaac instituted proceedings to determine the legality of their slave status in a free territory. Kinney was their attorney and the case was tried before the Associate Judges of Daviess County.

The decision of the court was that the slaves, by law, were free, and from this decision there was no appeal. No other action of this kind was taken by any other slaves. There was no need. By this decision, slavery in Daviess County was automatically abolished.

The freed slaves remained in the county. Some of them acquired property and established homes of their own. Lawyer Kinney's success in obtaining freedom for the two blacks aroused considerable prejudice against blacks among a number of white people.

In spite of numerous threats of violence against Kinney and his clients, nothing happened and the bitter feeling and vindictive abuse generally died down.

Judge Amory Kinney was a native of Bethel, Washington County, Vt. Born in 1791, he moved to western New York at the age of 19 to work in a cotton factory at Courtlandville. After the factory burned, he was unemployed and was elected constable which gave him time to study law.

In 1819 he was admitted to the bar in U.S. court, came west and settled in Vincennes. In 1827 he moved to Terre Haute and opened a law office, took over the Western Register newspaper in 1830, and in 1853 was elected probate court judge and served until 1857. His law practice took him to all the counties along the Wabash River from Ohio to Terre Haute.

He was elected to the Indiana Legislature in 1830 and appointed presiding judge by Governor Noble in 1831. He was elected to a seven-year term the following year. A candidate for Congress in 1833, he was again elected to the Legislature in 1848. At the end of his term as Judge of Common Pleas Court, his health failed and on a visit to his birthplace he died. For many years he was head of the law firm of Kinney, Wright & Gookins in Terre Haute.

Slave-hunting in Indiana refuge Vigo County was Underground Railroad

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Possibly as early as 1804, a secret society was developed by Northerners who hated the slave system to help runaways escape to Canada. Congress had passed a Fugitive Slave Act in 1793 to allow slave owners to recover a runaway slave with the least cost and inconvenience.

About 1831 the organization became known as the Underground Railroad. Homes of trusted persons willing to aid fugitives were known as stations. Hiding by day and traveling by night, the slaves were guided by conductors from one station to another until they reached safety. One estimate puts the total number of runaways helped by the underground system at 75,000.

In 1850 the majority of Americans were satisfied with the compromise worked out by Henry Clay. They believed the quarrel between the north and south was ended. Yet the political truce over slavery lasted hardly four years.

The 1850 fugitive-slave law offended many people in the North. They refused to take part in catching runaway slaves. The Underground Railroad became more active than ever. Mobs sometimes freed captured Negroes from of-

Historically speaking



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ficers taking them back to slavery. News of such events caused angry protests from the South.

This new law gave "mean, thieving men," as Sen. D. W. Voorhees called them, the right to organize a posse anywhere in the United States to run down escaping slaves. These men also used this law to kidnap free Negroes and sell them into slavery.

Slave-hunting became quite a business in southern Indiana where nearly four-fifths of the people were in sympathy with slavery. There were "patrolers" along the White River, slave hunters in Vanderburgh, Gibson and Knox counties, plying their

trade with the slave markets of Vincennes. All these made serious trouble with their road blocks for the fleet-footed refugees headed for Canada. Many them never got as far north as Vigo County.

Three main branches of the Underground Railroad crossed Indiana from south to north. Of these three, the one approximating the Wabash River trails and passing through Vigo County was the least used by fugitive slaves. This stretch of the Underground was risky and dangerous, but for those who overcame the perils and survived, Vigo County and Terre Haute became a haven many times.

Those who did manage to get this far considered themselves nine-tenths free. Men like Levi Coffin of New Port (now Fountain City), Dr. Adams of Petersburg and Col. J. W. Cockrum of Oakland City and other courageous leaders organized the Anti-Slavery League. This organization made the going easier. The Underground got its name from some of the hiding places in the caves around Madison and Posey's coal mines near Petersburg.

Slave-catchers and kidnappers of free Negroes often wormed their way as far as Terre Haute, but the

untiring efforts of the Anti-Slavery League made their trips futile. One incident mentioned in Beckwith's history tells of a slave woman trailed to this area. A reward had been offered for her capture, but they returned without their human quarry.

Before the League was formed, runaway slaves were not always sure who their friends were, so they often chose stealth to the risk of betrayal. In some instances this led to their undoing. Beckwith told "when Harrison's army was moving through the southern edge of Honey Creek Township two of his soldiers saw a couple of men, whom they mistook for Indians, skulking along in the edge of a grove. The soldiers opened fire, killed one of them and captured the other. They proved to be fugitive slaves. The one who survived was sent back to his slave plantation in Kentucky."

Ironically this took place not too far from the Malcolm Steele homestead, said to have been built around 1817, and once a station on the Underground Railroad. When the house was undergoing remodeling, a secret stairway and secret room were found.

The exact locations of most of the

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Underground stations of the Civil War period in Vigo County were secret and will probably remain so unless someone with knowledge comes forward and shares it. Personal knowledge of the local stations as it was handed down from generation to generation would be most helpful to this writer. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has such information.

Many runaway slaves found refuge in the Lost Creek black community. From there they were taken to a station near Rockville where agents took them on to Bloomingdale, etc.

According to the late Morton A. Lewis, a retired black school teacher, one of the Lost Creek stations was the home of George Anderson, who lived on Haythorne Avenue Road, about a mile west of the Hunt or Stop 10 Road. From there the runaways were taken to Markle's Mill, on to Bloomingdale, etc.

Some students of the Civil War period doubt that Markle's Mill was involved, but it is a matter of record that an organization known as the Home Guards held secret meetings there. Men would come from within a radius of 25 miles to attend.

During the meetings, the mill would be closely guarded and the machinery stilled. A man who was not a member took his life in his hands if he ventured too near. It is likely that if these men were not a part of the Underground, they made it safer for those who were.

"To my own personal knowledge," Morton Lewis said, "I only knew one fugitive from slavery, Elias Lindley. He owned a 200-acre farm in Nevins Township, Vigo County, on which I was born. I have often heard him laughingly tell of how he 'joined the bird company' and fled the slave plantation in Kentucky. He came by way of Vanderburgh, Gibson, Knox and Sullivan counties. After hiding a while in Terre Haute and vicinity, he made his way to Nevins Township.

"Lindley made his home with the Roper family, some of whom were full-blooded Indians. He hired out among the white neighbors, and invested the money he earned in land. Later this former slave-refugee became a wealthy and respected farmer. He married Margaret Roper and gave her not too fortunate family a helping hand. Owning fast horses was his hobby. His race horse "Black Republican" ran on the McKeen track at Terre Haute."

Is there more to suicide stories?

TS APR 11 1993 **Clark, Dorothy*

So many bank presidents committed suicide during the years following the Great Depression. Accounts of these tragic deaths became almost common place.

However, when a town the size of Terre Haute had three such deaths at two-year intervals, it became newsworthy. Especially since all three men headed up the same downtown banking institution.

Not a breath of scandal was evident in the newspapers. Readers were given hints of stress and "under doctor's care." At three methods of suicide were very different, but I'll let present-day readers decide what the 30-year-old newspapers were allowed to reveal, and whether there was, as they say now, "the rest of the story."

James S. Royse was a native born Terre Hautean, born Dec. 19, 1872, on a farm south of the city, the site of which is now occupied by the Rea Park golf course.

The house in which he was born, and in which he spent the whole of his younger life, stood at the north edge of the park, about 300 yards west of Seventh Street, and was occupied in the 1930s by the park's grounds keeper.

Royse's parents were John and Lavinia M. Royse. The father was born in 1837 in Butler County, Ohio; the mother in 1845 in Sullivan County, Ind.

James attended grade and high school in Terre Haute, then graduated from Rose Polytechnic Institute. He worked on the family farm until 1898, when he became a draftsman in the city en-

Historically speaking



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gineer's office.

In 1900 he married Mabel J. Tuller, daughter of John G. and Mary E. Tuller of Milford, Ill. They had two sons, John T. and James S. Jr., who was on his honeymoon with his new bride, Mary Bogart, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bogart, at the time of the tragedy.

In 1899, James S. Royse was employed by Terre Haute Trust Co., until 1902 when he was employed by Terre Haute Savings Bank, only to return to Terre Haute Trust two years later. He became president in 1909.

Under his direction, the bank extended its operations and grew in size and prestige. He was prominent in local financial and civic circles, but he remained the farmer of his youth. He built himself a country home on a large tract of land south of the city, where he was living at the time of his death.

The Tribune's front page on Feb. 18, 1929, told "Bank President Commits Suicide" taking his own life while in his car near his home. Royse, age 57, was driving his Lincoln on the Spring

Hill Road, a quarter of a mile west of Stop Two on the Sullivan interurban line, about three-fourths of a mile from his home farther west on the road.

The body was found before noon by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Walker of Terre Haute, who had ridden the interurban to Stop Two and walked west to visit friends, the Carl Cattanis, who lived on the Willard Blocksom farm south of Spring Hill Road on the First Street Road.

Blocksom's telephone was used to notify Deputy Sheriff Joe Dreher who arrived on the scene, notified the police department and the coroner. The body was taken to Isaac Ball's undertaking parlor on South Third Street.

The Walkers told how they noticed the car's occupant wasn't moving. Looking through the car's window, they saw blood, and hurried to get help. Blocksom recognized Royse who was sitting in the front seat behind the wheel. His body was slumped over to the right, and his hand still held the revolver he had used to shoot himself in the head.

It was believed over work and a series of recent worries were the reasons for his act. Two notes were found on his body, one to the bank directors, the other to the law firm of Cooper, Royse, Gambill & Crawford, his attorneys, explaining his act and directing certain disposition of his properties.

Business associates and close personal friends of Royse agreed that his health, impaired by a series of events that had preyed on his mind, and by his close

confinement to work, explained his act.

Three months earlier, Royse, together with Clarence and Herbert Royse and one or two others, was on his way to Bloomington, Ind., when the car in which they were riding was crowded off the road and overturned. Royse was riding in the backseat, and was thrown through the car door and sustained injuries that confined him to his home for several days. Many people believed he had not fully recovered from that accident.

Columns of tributes to Royse filled the newspapers. During the time of the funeral, all Terre Haute merchants closed their doors out of respect. The state bank commissioner's report was published in the news to reassure depositors that their money was safe in Terre Haute Trust Co.

It was believed that Royse suffered great depression after the death of his sister, Mrs. Kidder. Then when the difficulties of the Shelburn, Ind., bank came to light, Royse worked tirelessly to help work the situation out to the detriment of his health. He was never one to take a vacation, or even admit he would benefit from more rest.

Ill health, caused by worry and overwork, was the main factor in Royse's tragic death. According to his longtime friend and physician, Dr. Joseph Weinstein, "He was sick physically, and exhausted nervously."

Next Sunday's column will continue the account of two more bank presidents who chose to end their lives so tragically.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Community Affairs File

1993

Trust officials committed suicide

Ts APR 28 1993

On Nov. 12, 1931, James A. Cooper Jr., 57, acting president of the Terre Haute Trust Co., committed suicide in his home at 608 Putnam St. in a most bizarre manner.

At 2:45 a.m. on that date, Cooper stood in front of a mirror and deliberately slashed his throat with a straight razor. He died before Dr. James Moorhead and Dr. Joseph Weinstein arrived.

It seems he had suffered a nervous breakdown a few days earlier, showing signs of extreme stress and nervousness, but had shown signs of recovery.

Mrs. Cooper saw her husband writing at his desk at 2 a.m. When she urged him to try to get some sleep, he didn't answer. She went back to bed. When she checked on him to see if he had retired, she found him on the floor dying. The term "pool of blood" was apt.

The bank's board of directors met later that morning. They expressed their sorrow, and elected Walter E. Rahel president. Walter E. Ely was elected chairman of the board of directors.

The directors stated that Cooper's death had no connection with the affairs of the bank, and that the bank was in a sound condition and prepared to meet any demands made upon it. (A run on the bank occurred when depositors panicked to get their savings out.)

Dr. Weinstein, Cooper's attending physician for the past several months, stated that he had shown signs of improvement the day before. He was shocked at his demise.

Historically speaking



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Cooper was born at New Harmony on Dec. 27, 1874. Educated in public schools, he graduated first from DePauw, then Harvard and Harvard Law School in 1897. He was admitted to the bar at Indianapolis and came to Terre Haute in 1901, entering the practice of law here. He established his own firm and later became a member of the firm of Jump, Cooper and Bogart.

He was elected Vigo County prosecuting attorney in 1904 on the Republican ticket, and was re-elected in 1906. He joined the law firm of Cooper, Royse, Gambill and Crawford in 1916, and had been a member since that time. Cooper had served on the board of directors of the Terre Haute Trust Co. for 12 years and had been its president since 1928.

Cooper was survived by his wife, Susan Strong Cooper, daughter of Joseph Strong, and one son, David, born 1922, then in school at Andover, Mass., and two sisters and a brother.

As the news of the suicide spread, a good many people went

to the bank to withdraw their deposits. Its connection at Indianapolis and Chicago offered any sums of money to satisfy claims of stockholders. The board expected normal conditions to be restored when the depositors and general public understood the sound condition of the bank.

The doors of the Citizen National Bank & Trust Co. closed at the same time. National bank examiners completed their work and reported the bank to be thoroughly solvent. But the doors remained closed to protect depositors.

The third in the series of suicides of bank presidents of the Terre Haute Trust Co. occurred Sept. 22, 1933. Walter E. Rahel, 46, of 660 Seabury St., killed himself with a shotgun, shooting himself in the breast, dying instantly.

Most people remember Walter Rahel as a tall, handsome man in the insurance business, who became the bank's bookkeeper, then vice president, then president of Terre Haute Trust Co.

According to the Tribune, none of the family were at home. The only person in the house at the time of the suicide was a maid who heard the sound of the shot from the basement and found the lifeless body on the floor.

She called neighbors who reported the suicide to the police. Motor officers Everly and Foncannon and detectives Mitchell and A. Scott were sent to the house to investigate. A hurried search did not find a note, and his associates at the bank said

there was nothing in Rahel's attitude to indicate such action.

Rahel had been working with government authorities for the past three months to bring about reorganization of the bank. The government planned to take \$200,000 of the stock of the bank, which was closed since the March 4 moratorium.

Attorney Samuel D. Royse had returned from Washington a few days earlier, and the stockholders and depositors had been asked for waivers on 50 percent of their deposits. This work was still under way. The tragedy was a great shock to Attorney Royse and the other bank officers.

Rahel's suicide was the third in connection with the bank within a five-year period. The first was James S. Royse, who shot himself near his country home south of the city.

Rahel had been deeply worried by the delays in opening the bank, and three weeks before his suicide had gone to Martinsville Springs for a rest and to attempt to recuperate from a nervous condition. He had been in unusually good spirits his last few days and had enjoyed an afternoon outing with friends.

Rahel was survived by his widow, Mabel, two sons, John and Buddy, a sister and a brother. The previous year, his 49-year-old brother, Gifford A. Rahel, manager of the grain elevator at Paris, Ill., committed suicide by firing a bullet from a .38-caliber revolver through his head June 28, 1932. He left a note blaming mental problems.

Community Affairs File

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Valley heritage

Freedom trail ran through Valley

Many runaway slaves passed through Indiana on the so-called "underground railroad" on their way to Canada, where they received governmental protection, and never were returned to their masters.

In 1850, Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Law, which gave authority to arrest and return slaves to their masters from any state in the Union.

Any person who harbored, fed or clothed, or in any way aided a runaway slave was liable for a fine of \$100, of which \$50 went to the informant.

For a few years before the Civil War, the underground railroad through here was patronized frequently by many slaves, most of them from Kentucky and Tennessee. Southern sympathizers were always watching and ready to inform against any who aided a runaway. Any assistance given had to be managed with care and secrecy.

There was a "station" at Rushville managed by "Agent" Burns, (an African-American man) who would bring slaves to Carthage after dark. They were secreted until the next night, when an "Agent," Elisha B. White or Jim Hunt (an African-American), would take them on to another station in the Jessup neighborhood, four miles north of Knightstown, where they were hidden during the day, and taken on to the next station north after dark.



Historically Speaking

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This stop was called Newport (Fountain City later), where the president of the underground railroad, Levi Coffin, a staunch friend of the slaves, lived. From there they were "shipped" to Canada, sometimes taking several days and much risk.

One Sabbath day in the summer of 1855, there were 12 runaways hidden all day in a sugar orchard, a dense thicket then. The group contained one family, some children and the rest grown slaves determined to be free. They were all shipped on north and got through safely.

Slaves were valuable property in the South. A good man or woman would sell for \$1,000, and if they were religious and had moral character they were worth more money. Their masters and those they hired would follow them nearly to Canada but rarely captured them.

One woman slave with a 2-year-old child in her arms was pursued to the Ohio River by her

master. The river had been frozen over, but then the ice was broken up into large pieces. She ventured on and by stepping from piece to piece got across safely, though she and the child were very wet with the icy water.

A man at Ripley, Ohio, helped them out, and directed them where to go to a safe place and get dry clothes. The master was afraid to cross the river, and soon they were at Levi Coffin's house at Newport, where they rested until being shipped to Canada.

This true story was said to be the real foundation of "Uncle Tom's Cabin." There were two or three routes from the Ohio River to Newport. One time, 17 fugitives arrived there pursued by 15 slave hunters who shot at them, wounding two, but not seriously. These hunters made their headquarters at Richmond where they had many sympathizers. They scoured the country for miles around but failed to capture the slaves.

Coffin estimated that he assisted 100 fugitives on their way to Canada every year of the 20 years he lived at Newport.

In 1938, Markle's Mill was destroyed by fire, and the next year another fire destroyed the Malcolm A. Steele residence, which resulted in the loss of two stops on the Underground Railroad in this area.

Even before the capture of

Vincennes by George Rogers Clark and his army in 1779, men followed the banks of the Wabash River north to Detroit, passing through what is now Honey Creek Township south of Terre Haute.

By 1812 a log cabin with a smithy attached had been built on the road, which was becoming known as the Harrison Trail. Ammunition and firearms were made here for the Battle of Fort Harrison and the Battle of Tippecanoe.

Early travelers stopped at the cabin, and in 1817, Jesse Jones and his new wife came out from Jamestown, Va., and bought the land where the old cabin stood five miles from Terre Haute.

Going north from this place on the trail was Markle's Mill, on the road to Lafayette, Fort Wayne and Detroit.

The Jones family built a brick house and raised a family there. The Steele family bought the house in 1920, and discovered the secret room where escaping slaves were housed until they could be moved up to Markle's Mill.

These two stations on the underground railroad were used for several years in the famous effort to aid escaping slaves reach Canada and freedom. Fire destroys important historic sites, and these two were the important sites of untold historic happenings and stories.

Panic of 1893

Times tough under President Grover Cleveland

TS APR 19 1992

The panic of 1893, probably the worst this country had yet suffered, hit shortly after Democrat Grover Cleveland began his second term as president after defeating Republican Benjamin Harrison.

Banks failed, factories shut down, business firms crashed, and mortgages were foreclosed. Thousands of unemployed walked the streets looking for jobs that didn't exist. City soup kitchens served long lines of hungry people.

The People's Party, commonly known as "Populists," believed the panic resulted from a shortage of currency. Business leaders thought just the opposite. They blamed the panic on the large government purchases of silver which were draining the Treasury's gold reserves.

Cleveland called a special session of Congress to repeal the Sherman Silver Purchase Act. His action convinced the Silverites that he was a tool of Wall Street. They yelled louder than ever for free coinage of silver.

Like other conservative men of his day, Cleveland believed the storm had to blow itself out and allowed the government to take no further action to cure the depression. For two years, conditions grew worse. Farm prices fell still lower, and there were more wage cuts and more unemployment.

A wealthy reformer, Jacob S.

Historically speaking



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Coxey, came up with his plan to publicize the needs of the jobless. In 1894 he led a few hundred unemployed men to Washington, D.C., to ask Congress to create jobs by building roads and other public works. When he tried to make a speech on the Capitol steps, Coxey was arrested and his followers were driven away.

In a written protest, Coxey said persons needing favors for corporations were welcome in the committee rooms of Congress, but the way had been barred to him and the needy unemployed.

Unfortunately for the out-of-work men, they were labeled "Coxey's Army" and looked upon as vagabonds or tramps deserving no sympathy. The march resulted in new bitterness among the jobless.

A local incident was connected with Coxey's Army. It seems the Scott Burgan family had built a

store building on the south side of the National Road where the viaduct crossed near the former Glenn Orphan's Home. This store had a dance hall on the second floor. The Burgan's home was next door. This location also was a flag stop on the railroad.

One morning very early, the Burgan family heard men talking in front of the store. Recognizing them as hobos, members of Coxey's Army, Mrs. Burgan made coffee in the stove boiler for the men and fed them crackers from the store while her husband bought a train ticket, so the train would be compelled to stop.

When the train arrived, all the men boarded it, and soon were on their way to Washington, D.C. This was considered a very clever ruse by all involved to get the undesirables out of the Lost Creek Township neighborhood.

Winfield Scott Burgan was born in Lost Creek Township in 1850, the son of James and Elizabeth (Cochran) Burgan. James Burgan was born in 1812 in Pennsylvania and came to Vigo County, Ind., in 1839. He farmed until 1878 when he moved to Terre Haute and went into the livestock business until his death in 1881. His wife died in 1883.

Winfield was married in 1876 to Ella Persons, daughter of Alex and Elizabeth (Haines) Persons. Ac-

cording to local histories, he graduated from Terre Haute Commercial College in 1873, farmed and sold livestock until 1884, when he started a strip coal mine operation, and built his store and home in 1887.

The post office was named "Glenn," and the railroad station "Glendale." Thomas H. Varley was the postmaster and ticket agent.

Levi Dickerson, one of the Vigo County Commissioners when the present Court House was dedicated, bought the Burgan house. He was the uncle of Miss Gertrude Hunt (born 1884) and her sister, Mrs. Loulie Gillespie (born 1868), who made their home at the Clara Fairbanks Home for Aged Women until their deaths.

Their father, John D. Hunt, bought the property from Dickerson. They remembered when the first children were brought out to the Glenn Home after it was built in 1902.

Mrs. Gillespie remembered helping make the bed comforts for these first orphans. She also attended the first burial at Highland Lawn Cemetery. The deceased was Samantha Rogers McPherson (Mrs. Louis).

The gravedigger was Bill Gray who lived about where the former clock was located on the Hulman property east on U.S. 41.